

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Spring Dale (Springdale)

other names/site number David S. McGavock House (VDHR # 77-33), Samuel Cecil Archaeological Site (44PU20)

2. Location

street & number Ruebush Road not for publication X
city or town Dublin vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Pulaski code 155 Zip 24084

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets request does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant request nationally request statewide X locally. (request See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

5/30/25
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property request meets request does not meet the National Register criteria. (request See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

request entered in the National Register

request See continuation sheet.

request determined eligible for the National Register

request See continuation sheet.

request determined not eligible for the National Register

request removed from the National Register

request other (explain): request

Signature of Keeper request

Date of Action request

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>5</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>domestic</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>domestic</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>agriculture</u>	<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
<u>agriculture</u>	<u>animal facility</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

[illegible]

7. Description**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival, Italianate**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation limestoneroof metal shinglewalls brickother board and batten, exposed logs**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ X D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)Agriculture, Exploration and Settlement, Military,Archeology: Historic, Architecture

**Spring Dale
Pulaski County, Virginia**

Period of Significance 1768-1953

Significant Dates 1768
1856
 1864

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Deyerle, James Crawford

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

 X State Historic Preservation Office

____ Other State agency

 Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 106.6 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 529760 4111990 2 17 529480 4111040

3 17 530030 4111475 4 17 529105 4111740

x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael J. Pulice, Architectural historian

Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Roanoke Office date March, 2003

street & number: 1030 Penmar Ave. SE telephone 540-857-7586

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dr. and Mrs. Walter J. Walker

street & number 5520 Old Route 11 telephone 540-674-5148

city or town Dublin state VA zip code 24084

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Pulaski County, Virginia

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7. Summary Description:

Spring Dale, near Dublin in eastern Pulaski County, is the site of an elegant brick mansion built in 1856-7 for David Shall McGavock, one of the county's most prominent farmers during the antebellum period. The house is two stories with a full basement, based on a double-pile, central hall plan, and designed in a late-Greek Revival/proto-Italianate style. Distinguishing exterior features of the house include its transitional style Ionic porch with bracketed cornice, walls of exceptionally well-made bricks laid upon a foundation of dry-laid, finely-cut limestone ashlar, extraordinarily large windows and shallow hipped roof with wide, bracketed eaves. Interior features include remarkable decorative plasterwork on ceilings, faux-grained paneled doors, marbleized wood mantles and baseboards, intact hearths and the remnants of a dumbwaiter. McGavock was preceded by Samuel Cecil, who built a two-story log house in 1768, just across the creek from the future site of McGavock's house. The stone foundations and collapsed chimneys of Cecil's house and kitchen are all that remain. Today the 106-acre parcel encompasses the roaring spring at the headwaters of Neck Creek and the remains of an old wagon road, the McGavock House with its impressive brick smokehouse and unusually refined frame barn, as well as the Cecil house and kitchen ruins.

Narrative Description

The McGavock House, named Spring Dale in reference to the excellent spring just below the house, is situated in a remote location in rural Pulaski County, within the New River Valley, surrounded by the steeply sloped Allegheny Mountains of southwestern Virginia. The parcel lies roughly three miles north of the town of Dublin (formerly New Dublin), only two miles from the historic thoroughfare called the Wilderness Road, now US Route 11, and to the west of State Route 617. The site elevation is slightly less than 2000 feet above sea level, with Cloyds Mountain and Little Walker Mountain to the north and west and Walker Mountain beyond, rising to a height of 3000 feet. The nearest point on the New River is four miles to the east. Spring Dale is not visible from public roads, and must be accessed through a series of farm gates that confine herds of grazing cattle. Although visited frequently by its absentee owners, the house has received only a small number of visitors in recent years; yet its condition has been relatively well maintained. When approaching the property, a visitor experiences an enthralling sense of returning to the nineteenth century. Unoccupied for much of the twentieth century, the house has suffered virtually no alterations over the last one hundred years or more. Aside from a lack of furnishings and some deteriorated plasterwork, each

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room of the house overwhelmingly retains its antebellum character.

The house is roughly square in plan— 60' 7" deep by 59' 5" wide— including a one-story rear section that while part of the original construction, appears to have been included as an afterthought. The main two-story block without the one-story rear section measures 43' 6" deep. The ashlar foundation walls are formed of large, squared, finely cut, light-gray limestone blocks. The blocks are laid very tightly together without the use of mortar. The stonework rises to knee-level on the exterior of the house. The stones underlying the ashlar, visible only in the basement, are formed of uncut limestone. The bricks are laid in American bond with Flemish variant; in this case, one course of alternating headers and stretchers to every five courses of stretchers. Exceptionally large 9/9 double-hung windows with fine muntins and panes measuring 14.5" x 24" pierce each wall of the house. Each window has a buff-colored sandstone sill and wood lintel with carved corner blocks. On the second story, above each the north and south entrances are similar windows with double-hung sidelights. On the rear elevation are triple-hung sash windows flanking the back door, which now leads to an enclosed porch. Physical evidence suggests that the rear porch, which once had a plastered ceiling, was enclosed within a few decades of the house's construction.

The front entrance of the house consists of paneled faux-grained folding doors flanked by fluted Ionic pilasters. The five-pane transom sash is hinged on one end and opens inward. Below the five-pane sidelights are carved wood panels. The rear entrance is very similar, but has Doric pilasters and early, if not original artwork on the glass panes of the sidelights and transom lights. Several panes were coated with a brownish-red pigment, then negative images of plants and flowers were made by removing the pigment with a coarse-tipped brush. The artwork, possibly done by McGavock children, is amateurish but conveys a warm, inviting feeling.

Wooden steps lead up to the south (front) elevation porch, which is original to the house. Agreeably proportioned and finely crafted, the porch is the embodiment of the late Greek Revival-Italianate style in southwestern Virginia. It consists of three bays divided by four fluted Ionic columns in the front and four pilasters in the rear supporting a simplified entablature and brackets matching those at the main roofline—minus the drop pendants, and a turned-balustrade rail. The east elevation of the house has a longer three-bay porch with square wood columns. It appears to have been built in the early twentieth century to replace the original porch, which probably matched the front more closely.

The shallow, hipped, main roof has a molded wood cornice and broad eaves supported by brackets

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at roughly 3-foot intervals, extending from a wide friezeboard. The brackets closely match the those found in Samuel Sloan's design for a "Suburban Residence" in *The Model Architect, Volume I*.¹ The soffits are clad with 2-inch-wide boards enclosing hidden gutters. The roof is covered with red-painted decorative metal shingles and its structure is pierced by four interior end chimneys. An additional chimney rises from the basement kitchen and protrudes from the roof of the rear one-story section. There is clear evidence, found in the attic, that the roof once had a ballustraded widow's walk (deck-on-hip roof) that would have afforded splendid panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Indeed, the deck roof and even the hatch lid are still intact beneath the apex of the present roof, which was constructed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century as an apparent solution to a leaking deck roof. The original deck roof was clad with shiny sheets of tin fastened with tiny cut nails, which undoubtedly made it susceptible to leaks. It is perhaps the earliest known use of sheet metal roofing in southwestern Virginia.

House Interior

The interior of the house has been left much the way it was in the nineteenth century. In fact, only two rooms were ever painted, the plaster walls in all first and second floor rooms having been papered soon after construction. Wallpaper became much more affordable as an alternative to paint after about 1850.² Remnants of original paper survive only in one room, a rear second floor bedroom.³ Virtually all of the original wall plaster in the house has survived. The plaster ceilings and cornices have also fared well under the circumstances. Although fragmented somewhat due to long-term moisture problems, a large majority of the ornamental plasterwork survives intact. Certainly there is enough remaining to warrant full-scale conservation and restoration. The identities of the artisans who applied the plasterwork remain obscured. They may have been itinerants from Italy, Germany or other European countries.

The halls on both the first and second floors are adorned with ornamental plaster cornices. The first floor hall cornice is richly detailed, with alternating floral and cartouche ornaments engaged to a plaster entablature with a concave frieze. Along the top of the cornice is a band of molded plaster rosettes. Each rosette consists of a four-petal flower set within a circle, with tiny cartouches between each rosette. Similar bands of rosettes, derived from the Roman Composite order, appear in the works of Italian Renaissance architects, including those of Vignola and Palladio, and were adapted in America through period pattern books such as Charles Normand's

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*Orders of Architecture.*⁴ Typically, though not in this case, the rosettes appear just below a frieze, forming the top of the architrave. Although less elaborate, Spring Dale's second floor hall is beautifully adorned with delicate, stylized, plaster acanthus leaves draped over a molded plaster cornice. Instead of forming a sharp corner, the second floor hall is gently rounded at the top of the stairs, the effect of which is highly accentuated by the cornice.

Exceptionally wide central halls, measuring more than fourteen feet across, extend through the depth of the house on each level. Two large rooms on both sides flank each hall. All of the doorways and windows in the house are similarly treated with paneled jambs, wide, molded architraves, and one of several unique cornerblock variations that appear throughout the house. In several rooms are moldings adapted from Asher's *Practical House Carpenter*, plates 46 and 47, and faceted corner blocks based on plate 48. Most interior doorways have operable transom windows above. The ceiling height is over twelve feet in the first floor rooms, and thirteen feet four inches in the second floor rooms. Each room has a hearth and faux-grained or marbled wood mantels that have darkened in color with age, except for the parlor, which has a mantle composed of real marble slabs. All mantles are very much alike, designed in a plain Greek Revival style.

The staircase at the rear of the first floor hall consists of a single open stringer with a paneled skirt enclosing a basement staircase. The sleek, curving, molded walnut handrail, supported by delicate balusters, terminates at the bottom in a spiral without a central newel. The balusters are very slender and tapered towards the top, and are unusual in that they are rounded but have two vertical, somewhat sharp edges, forming a slightly rounded diamond shape in cross-section.

On the west side of the first-floor hall are the parlor and dining room. These rooms are separated by superbly crafted, oak-grained, multi-paneled pocket doors, one of which was damaged by vandals within the last few years. Both of these large rooms are adorned with the same ornamental plaster form, such as arabesque ceiling medallions and rosette borders. More bands of rosettes, aligned at right angles to each wall, extend from the borders to the center medallions, which are themselves encircled by rosettes. Within each corner is additional arabesque plaster filigree.

On the west side of the main hall, on the first floor, are two large semi-formal rooms and a small stair hall for the secondary staircase leading to the rooms to the rear on the second floor. The two

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large rooms have finely molded wood cornices similar to the plaster cornices in the more formal rooms, but without ornament. The upstairs rooms have no cornices.

All of the rooms in the house retain their original faux-grained pine doors. The doors to each room have built-in locks, and most retain their original door hardware including porcelain knobs and keyhole covers. The interior doors are all identical, consisting of five panels in a configuration of two wide, vertical rectangles in the top half, a narrow horizontal panel just below the knob, and two square panels at the bottom. This configuration is faithfully derived from Benjamin's *Practical House Carpenter*, plate 39, figure 4. The rooms all have molded baseboards and as typical for the period, none have wainscoting or chair rails. All rooms retain their original, random-width, tongue-and-groove, yellow pine floorboards.

With the arrival of the Italianate style in southwestern Virginia during the mid-late 1850s came a resurgence in the popularity of ornamental plaster ceilings. Plaster centerpieces had increasingly become the only ornaments on ceilings towards the end of the Federal period, and such plasterwork in association with the subsequent Greek Revival was exceptionally rare in the region. Yet while the individual ornaments at Spring Dale are generally reflective of an Italian Renaissance or Italianate style, the fashion for dividing ceilings into segments arranged around a centerpiece reflects a carryover of English Adam influence from the Federal Period.⁵

Massive hardwood beams in the basement and attic were hand hewn and mortised/tenoned, but all other visible wood elements in the house were circular-sawn and fastened with cut nails. The basement, with rooms consisting of large, poorly lighted utilitarian spaces, follows the same basic plan as the other levels. None of the rooms appear to have been occupied or used to any extent in a very long time. The two front rooms have dirt floors, whitewashed walls and no hearths, while the rooms to the rear have brick floors, plastered walls and ceilings, and hearths with original mantles. The central hall has a brick floor and a plaster ceiling. The entire rear section of the basement has a brick floor, whitewashed brick walls, and lath/plaster ghosts on the joists overhead. The interior brick walls are laid up in 1:4 common bond. Two original basement staircases, one in the main hall and a service/kitchen stair in the rear, retain their original components including well-worn handrails. The kitchen is located in the far rear of the basement, below the one-story section at the southwestern corner of the house. The voluminous brick cooking hearth survives complete with iron potholder. To the right of the hearth are remnants of

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a dumbwaiter, with a shaft measuring roughly 2' by 2' wide. Most of its wood components are still intact, but because other parts are missing the contraption is no longer functional.

Outbuildings

All of the extant outbuildings at Spring Dale are considered contributing to the historic significance of the property. They include a brick smokehouse, a frame barn, a frame chicken coop, and a log structure that may have served as a blacksmith shop.

The smokehouse is an unusually tall, slender structure, measuring some 28 feet high by 16' 2" square, located directly behind the house, about 75' away. It has a front door facing south toward the house reached by a ladder stair, and a side door to access the basement level. At the top is a pyramidal roof with a wood cornice and plain friezeboard. Centered on each wall just below the friezeboard are small clusters of ventilation holes. The bricks are laid up in 1:4 common bond. The basement is an empty room with a dirt floor. Above it is an apparently original pine wood floor. Court documents include J. C. Deyerle's figure of 27,000 bricks that he manufactured for the smokehouse during the same period when the house was built. The bricks are identical to those in the walls of the house. He later estimated the value of making and laying the smokehouse bricks at \$135.⁶

The hay barn is located northeast of the house at a distance of approximately one hundred feet. Built of light timbers held together mostly with wire nails, it has an unusually complex pyramidal roof topped with a finial, composing a picturesque late-Victorian quality. The structure is sheathed with boards and battens and is covered with a standing seam metal roof; and it is in excellent condition. Architectural evidence suggests a construction date of 1890-1910.

The chicken coop is off to the northwest of the smokehouse at a distance of approximately fifty feet. It is a rectangular, board-and-battened light frame structure with a gable roof, apparently constructed in the early twentieth century. Its condition is only fair.

An intact log structure of unknown function sits just across the creek from the house, near the Cecil house ruins. It is 17 feet square in plan and built of V-notched oak logs, hewn on two sides, set on stone piers. It has a front gable roof covered with sheet metal, one door, and had one small window (now missing) on the west elevation. The east wall exterior is covered with vertical boards and

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battens, which may have previously covered the entire structure. Between each log are chips of hardwood chinking that was once covered with mud. A small amount of the mud is left intact in the east wall. The structure was probably constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. The owners of the property believe that it may have served as a blacksmith shop, but no evidence to support this notion has yet been found. It is perhaps more likely that it served as a smokehouse for the Cecil House inhabitants.

Archaeological Potential at Spring Dale

Because of the excellent spring on the property, which forms McGavock Creek or the headwaters of Neck Creek, the nominated parcel has undoubtedly attracted humans for thousands of years. Prehistoric stone artifacts litter the ground on all sides of the spring, and the owner reports having found projectile points within two feet of the McGavock House. Among the lithics present are bifacially-worked fragments of high quality chalcedony and jasper. Low terraces along the creek are flat and sandy, and the upper terraces are broad and well drained. This habitat, which attracted European settlers such as Jacob Harmon as early as 1750, was equally attractive to Native Americans. Although no archaeological investigations have taken place on the property to date, it nonetheless comprises an area of extraordinary archaeological potential.

Archaeological Site 44PU20: The Samuel Cecil House Ruins

The Cecil Site is on an opposite hillside across the creek, easily within view from the McGavock House. According to published histories, Samuel Cecil built his log house at the headwaters of Neck Creek, next to a wagon road, in 1768. The location is said to also be the site of the first Euro-American settlement west of the New River—the Jacob Harmon cabin—built ca. 1753, and burned by Indians soon thereafter. By all accounts the wagon road ran along the south side of the spring now identified on maps as McGavock Creek, between the creek and the Cecil house. The house (VDHR structure # 77-36) stood on the site until the 1980s, when it finally succumbed to decay after years of abandonment. It consisted of a 1½-story, single-pile, gable-roofed, hall-and-chamber log structure with a rear wing addition. Based on the surviving footprint consisting of two-foot thick fieldstone walls, its three-bay front section measured 33½ feet wide by 20½ feet deep. The frame wing extended another 34 feet to rear and was 23½ feet wide. Remains of the fieldstone foundation and end chimneys are visible on the west side of the Spring Dale entrance drive, across the creek from the McGavock House. The rear wing of the Cecil House had the same type of fieldstone foundation

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as the front section, but may have been built of vertical framing rather than logs, under McGavock's ownership in the mid-nineteenth century. The brick chimney at the rear of the wing, part of which still remains, was built of bricks identical to those used to build the McGavock house, as was the shaft portion of the north chimney—originally built of stone. To the rear of the Cecil House ruins lay the ruins of a detached kitchen. The kitchen was another log building with a stone foundation, and a short, stout, stone chimney. It measured 18 by 24 feet in plan. Both the house and kitchen building appear to have had excavated root cellars lined with fieldstones.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

Spring Dale is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Exploration and Settlement, and Military because of, in respective order: McGavock's success and prominence as a farmer, the contributions of James Crawford Deyerle (1825-1897) to the fields of architecture and building in southwestern Virginia, the site's history as one of the earliest settled tracts in the region, and its role as a hospital in close proximity to a Civil War battle. The property is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because of its high degree of historic integrity and its importance and distinction as a mid-nineteenth-century landmark that exemplifies the regional late-Greek Revival style; as well as Criterion D for the early-settlement-era archaeological remains of the Samuel Cecil House, reportedly built on the site of the ca. 1745 Jacob Harmon house, and for the remnants of the eighteenth-century wagon road used by early settlers in the region.

Historic Context

Pulaski County was part of Augusta County until it became part of Botetourt County in 1770, Montgomery County in 1777, and was finally chartered as Pulaski County in 1839. Historian Mary Kegley has shown that Jacob Harmon was one of the first settlers in what is now Pulaski County, having acquired 160 acres on Neck Creek by 1753.⁸ Harmon built one of the first houses west of the New River, possibly at or near the same location as the later Cecil cabin.⁹

Harmon and his wife were attacked and killed by Indians and are said to be buried "outside the fence at Spring Dale"—according to some sources, possibly within 100 feet of where the

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McGavock House now stands. After the close of the French and Indian War the lands west of the New River were safe from Indian attack and were re-opened to settlement. Samuel Cecil (b.1721) arrived in 1768 and built a two-story log house with a field stone foundation, and a kitchen building of similar construction. The house site is easily within view from the McGavock House, on the opposite hillside across McGavock Creek. Cecil and his wife, Rebecca, had ten children. Samuel died in 1786. Soon after his death, Rebecca opened an ordinary at the town of New Dublin (later Dublin), on the Wilderness Road. She died in 1815. Both she and Samuel are also said to be buried on the premises in unmarked graves. David S. McGavock settled on the parcel and built Spring Dale long after the deaths of both Samuel and Rebecca Cecil.¹⁰

The McGavock family was of Scotch-Irish descent. The patriarch of the family lineage in southwestern Virginia was James McGavock, born in Antrim, Ireland in 1728. He immigrated to Philadelphia around 1754, and arrived in Augusta County, Virginia by 1757. He married Mary Cloyd in 1760 and settled at Fort Chiswell in Wythe County. By the end of the Revolution he had accumulated vast land holdings.

David Shall McGavock was born one of nine children, near Nashville, Tennessee on December 21, 1818. His father Randal, born in Wythe County, Virginia in 1796, took the family from Nashville to New Iberia, Louisiana when David was a child. David came to Wythe County as a young man, sometime after 1840. He married Cynthia M. Cloyd, daughter of David Cloyd (1776-1848), in July of 1844. The Cloyds were a prosperous family, well-entrenched in the area— primarily in Pulaski County, but by the late 1700s they were well connected by marriage to the prominent Kent and McGavock families, with members scattered throughout Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe counties. David and Cynthia received the land encompassing the nominated parcel from David Cloyd and may have lived in the Cecil house after their marriage. Cynthia died just three years later, in 1847. In 1851 McGavock married Pauline Ligon (1828-1896), originally from Powhatan County. The wedding took place in Petersburg, Virginia. The couple began building Spring Dale mansion within the next 4 or 5 years. Between 1852 and 1865, they gave birth to 6 children: Henry Bentley (b. 1852), James Randal (b. 1855), William Ligon (b. 1858), Myra Lee (b. 1861), Pauline Archer (b. 1863), and David Ellen (1865-1875). David McGavock died August 8, 1866. He was described as "6 feet, four inches tall, with light hair, blue eyes and florid complexion. Being of large public spirit, social and charitable, he was highly esteemed by all, and in his own community he was exceedingly popular."¹¹ After arriving in Pulaski County, McGavock quickly became a successful planter. In 1850 he possessed 1100 improved acres and 1600 unimproved acres valued at a total of 30,000 dollars. He

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had 11 horses, 18 milk cows, 4 oxen, 130 other cattle, 90 sheep, and 130 swine. The agriculture census recorded 120 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of rye, 6000 bushels of corn, 7600 bushels of oats, 100 pounds of flax, 15 bushels of flax seed, 50 tons of hay, 400 pounds of wool, and 700 pounds of butter. That year he owned 28 slaves, of whom 15 were female, ages 7 to 56, and 13 were male, ages 7 to 55.¹²

In 1860 Spring Dale was the sixth most valuable farm in the county, with 1200 improved acres of land and 1300 unimproved acres valued at a total of 45,000 dollars. He owned 25 horses, 17 milk cows, 103 other cattle, 50 sheep, and 64 swine under his ownership, valued at 6,840 dollars. Also on hand were 2300 bushels of wheat, 3500 bushels of corn, 560 bushels of oats, 300 bushels of potatoes, 1500 pounds of butter, 200 pounds of wool and 100 tons of hay. He also owned 30 slaves, in equal numbers of both genders. Interestingly, there appears to have been virtually no production of tobacco in Pulaski County during the period, with the exception of David Cloyd, who had 22,000 lbs. of tobacco on hand in 1860. Since other crops were less labor intensive than tobacco, McGavock was able to get by with a smaller workforce of slaves than did large-scale tobacco planters of the period.¹³

According to personal property tax books, by 1863 McGavock had increased his slave holdings to 49, making him the 5th largest slave holder in the county. In the fall of 1862 McGavock and other slave owners were forced by Virginia Governor Letcher to send slaves to Richmond to help in the war effort. McGavock was required to deliver two males between the ages of 18 and 45 to a Confederate agent, at the corner of 18th and Cary Streets in Richmond. Pulaski County slaves would be requisitioned four more times before the end of the war.¹⁴

Deyerle vs. McGavock

Pulaski County Chancery Court records, dated November 1858 through September, 1859, document a prolonged court battle between David S. McGavock and builder James C. Deyerle that provides fascinating insights regarding the construction of McGavock's house at Spring Dale. Deyerle sued McGavock for \$3676.00 in construction costs, primarily for the manufacture and laying of 367,000 bricks.

Deyerle claimed to have been compelled to haul 14 loads of sand from the New River after having been assured by McGavock that a sufficient quantity of sand could be obtained much closer by, at

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James Cloyd's Back Creek Farm. McGavock answered that he had told Deyerle that sufficient sand could be had at Cloyd's, but that he had also told Deyerle it was up to him to decide if the sand was a proper quality to be used in brickmaking, which apparently it was not. Deyerle also listed among his expenditures 201 cords of wood for firing the bricks; labor involved with hauling plank and cleaning the walls after construction; and most interestingly, for his frustrations in using McGavock's brick press machine. Deyerle had made 6000 "pressed brick" for which he charged \$48, and left them at the brickyard according to McGavock's order; but in order to do so, he had to borrow McGavock's brick press. Deyerle had difficulty using the press, and claimed to have had it repaired several times. It is not known what type of brick press it was, what became of the 6000 bricks, or what the bricks looked like. It does not appear that the bricks were intended for use at Spring Dale. Furthermore, it is not clear why McGavock, a farmer, would own a brickmaking device, or why Deyerle, a brickmaker, would need to borrow one.¹⁵

Deyerle also wanted reimbursement "for taking down wall and putting frames in brick house for *aqua fortis*." Although the meaning of Deyerle's use of the word *aqua fortis* has not survived to the present, he was apparently referring to a system for bringing water into the house and some type of a reservoir, the remains of which are no longer present. It may be that the reservoir was so large that he was forced to take down a recently built brick wall to get it into the building. It is interesting and odd that there are water pipes leading to the second floor central hall, but the plumbing does not appear to date to McGavock's lifetime.

The Builder

While it is not known who did the carpentry or plasterwork at Spring Dale, it is known that the bricks were made by James Crawford Deyerle, known as J. C., on the adjacent property to the north along the creek, owned by William Anderson.¹⁶ Deyerle and his workforce, made up mostly if not entirely of slaves, traveled from their home in Salem to Spring Dale in Pulaski County, and made and laid the 340,000 bricks in the house for a price amounting to ten cents apiece. It may be assumed that they traveled by way of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, completed to Dublin in 1854. Deyerle could catch the train in Salem at about 9:30 am and reach Dublin, not far from Spring Dale, by around noon. The fare for the five-hour trip from Lynchburg to Dublin was \$3.25, so Deyerle probably paid less than \$2 from Salem to Dublin. Completion of the railroad through to Bristol, Tennessee in 1856 may have prompted him to offer his services as far west as Wythe County and beyond.¹⁷

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Deyerle (1825-97) enjoyed a long, outstanding career as a brickmaker and builder who specialized in brickwork. He was involved in building many brick structures in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding counties, including the remarkable Pleasant Grove in western Roanoke county, home of his father, Joseph; the Fort Lewis Baptist Church near Pleasant Grove; and the Main Building and Bittle Memorial Hall at Roanoke College in 1847 and 1879, respectively. Evidence suggests that he also built the Poff House, known as Monterey, in Salem in 1851-2, and undoubtedly many other buildings that have not yet been positively identified.¹⁸ He is listed in the 1850 and 1870 census as a brickmason, in the 1860 census as a speculator, and in the 1880 census as a brick maker. On November 16, 1854, J. C. advertised in the Salem Register that he wished to "employ some 3 or 4 good journeyman carpenters." Roanoke County deed books document numerous land transactions in which J. C. was involved. On June 5, 1857, he advertised "Land Warrants Wanted." In a 1871-72 classified business directory he was the only local brick maker listed. An 1883 map of Salem shows a brickyard and several properties under his ownership.¹⁹ J. C. Deyerle married and built his own residence on Main Street in Salem in the late 1850s. In 1860 he was 34 years old but had no children. His personal estate was valued at \$25,000. It appears that the Civil War did little to disrupt his success as a speculator, builder, and brick maker. By 1870 he had become a prominent and wealthy businessman. He died at his home in 1897.²⁰ His house and brickyard in Salem have long since vanished.

Other important Deyerle builders who built within the Greek Revival tradition include J. C.'s father Joseph (1799-1877) and uncles Benjamin Deyerle (1806-1883) and David Deyerle (1813-1893). His Uncle Charles Deyerle (brother of Benjamin and David) is more obscure, but archival documents confirm that he too was a builder. Walter C. Deyerle appears to have been active primarily in Montgomery County. He is identified in the 1850 census as a carpenter, and court records show that he built roads for the county. His name appears on numerous court records over many decades, but there are no buildings commonly attributed to him.²¹

The Battle of Cloyd's Mountain

As part of General Ulysses S. Grant's campaign against Robert E. Lee in the spring of 1864, a plan was conceived to cut off supplies from the south and west to eastern and northern Virginia. General Crook was assigned the task of destroying the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad line in the lower Valley of Virginia. Crook's primary target was the railroad bridge spanning the New River at Central Depot, now known as Radford. His army of 6,500 marched south along the Kanawha River to the

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New River, but was confronted by Confederate troops a few miles north of the depot at Dublin. Confederate Calvary commander General Albert Jenkins had little time to prepare for the Union advance, and was only able to muster some 2,500 troops and a few pieces of artillery. However, he was able to secure an advantageous position overlooking the road descending from Cloyds Mountain, to the north, and the Back Creek Valley below.

According to published accounts of the battle, on May 9th, 1864, at about 9 am, a skirmish broke out between Union troops crossing over Cloyd's mountain and Confederate troops lying in ambush. A Confederate line about one mile long was formed, crossing the Pulaski and Giles turnpike (now Route 100), facing Cloyds Mountain. The Confederates awaited the arrival of a Union column at the narrow gap near the top of the mountain, and attacked as they filed through. Crook sent additional units over the ridge tops to each side of the gap, resulting in multiple combat situations occurring simultaneously along the Confederate line of defense. The peak of the action began around 11 am and raged until noon. General Jenkins, who was shot in the arm during the battle (and would later die from his wound), was relieved of his command by General John McCausland. Union forces including Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes' 1st Brigade of Ohioans finally broke the Confederate line and McCausland was forced to withdraw his remaining troops to avoid capture. Crook continued his push to the New River Bridge the following day, and succeeded in destroying it soon thereafter.

At Spring Dale, less than two miles southeast of the battle, Pauline McGavock, her children, and some refugees from the ongoing heavy fighting in eastern Virginia watched the battle from a "small foothill [with a] complete view of the battle on the plain below, [near enough] that a cannonball knocked down a fence not over a hundred feet from us." The battle resulted in 538 Confederate soldiers killed, wounded, captured or missing, and Union losses numbered at 688. According to an account by Graham Gordon Lacy, one of the refugees who had witnessed the action, the wounded were carried to the nearby town of Dublin, and "others were cared for at makeshift hospitals at Back Creek, Oaklands...[and] Springdale[sic]." ²²

Spring Dale remained in the McGavock family until 1919. The house has been occupied only sporadically since. The present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Walker, purchased the property in 1966.

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Endnotes

1. Design XXI, Plate XC, "Details."
2. *The Elements of Style*: 283.
3. See scanned image of the wallpaper on a continuation sheet, attached.
4. See Normand, plates 52 and 54.
5. *The Elements of Style*: 149, 184, 217.
6. Pulaski County Law Book, 1858, Deyerle vs McGavock.
7. See photograph of the Cecil House and kitchen, copied from *Adventures on the Western Waters, Vol. II*, included with this nomination.
8. Kegley: 238 provides list of early land patents from Augusta County Survey Book One.
9. Kegley:75 "(page 164) SAMUEL CECIL, assignee of George Pearis, state warrant of 390 acres, enters 100 acres on a branch of Neck Creek joining the land he lives on to begin at the upper end of the survey[.] JOHN CECIL, assignee of Samuel Cecil, assignee of George Pearis, state warrant for 390 acres, enters 145 acres joining old patent line north of Neck Creek and joining place known by the name of Jacob Harmon survey where sd. [sic] Cecil now lives; [sic] also 145 acres on south side of Neck Creek joining the tract he now lives on[.]"
10. *Early Adventures, Vol. II*: 259-261; *Darsts of VA*:335.
11. Rev. Robert Gray, *The McGavock Family*.
12. In September 1851, McGavock was appointed Captain of a patrol charged with rounding up "strolling negroes." *Dublin and the Darsts*:74.
13. The top three farms in terms of value were David Cloyd's farm, valued at \$152,000, Elizabeth Kent's at \$98,000, and James Cloyd's at \$88,880. US Agriculture Census for Pulaski County.
14. *Dublin and the Darsts*: 271.
15. Pulaski County Law Book, 1858, Deyerle vs McGavock.
16. William Anderson's house burned in the 1980s. It was one-half mile down McGavock/Neck Creek from McGavock's house at Spring Dale.
17. *Dublin and the Darsts*:53; *Hardesty's Historical & Geographical Encyclopedia*:51.
18. Pulice, *Unraveling the Deyerle Legend*.
19. O. W. Gray and Son, Map entitled "Heart of Salem," 1883.
20. *Roanoke Times*. September 4, 1897.
21. *Unraveling the Deyerle Legend*.
22. *Dublin and the Darsts*:104-106.

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Geographic Data

UTM coordinates for Cecil House ruins (44PU20): Zone 17 E 529630 N 4111520

Boundary Justification

The 106.6-acre nominated parcel boundaries are the same boundaries used by the county assessor's office to define the property owned by Dr. Walter Walker. The parcel includes the McGavock House known as Spring Dale and secondary structures, as well as the Samuel Cecil archaeological site (44PU20).

Verbal Boundary Description

Nominated parcel (tax #17632) boundary is the same as shown on Pulaski County assessor's map 027-001-0000-004A, parcel 661. See parcel maps, attached.

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All photographs are of:

Spring Dale (0077-0033) Pulaski County, Virginia

Date: November 2002 Photographer: Michael Pulice

Location of negatives: VDHR, Richmond

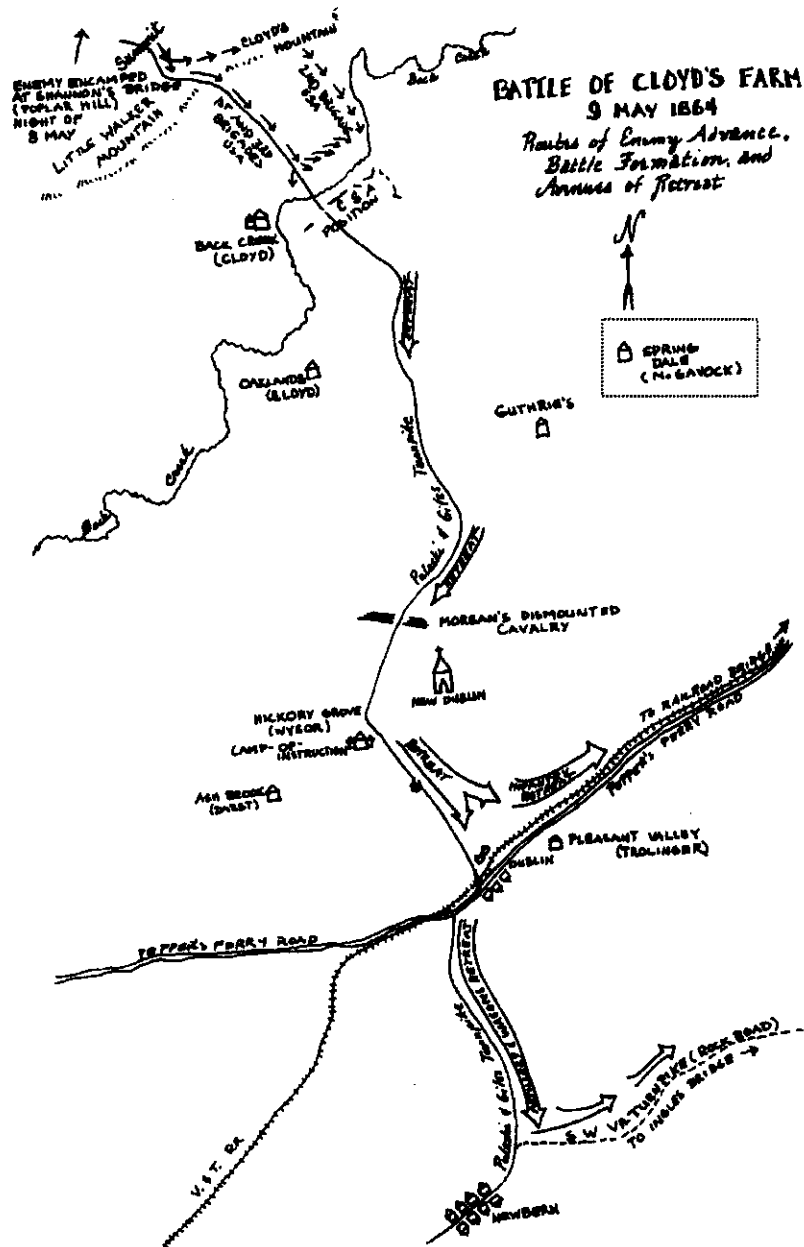
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. VIEW OF: South (front) façade
Neg. No. 20269 | 11. VIEW OF: Ornamental plasterwork in parlor
Neg. No. 20268 |
| 2. VIEW OF: Context, facing North
Neg. No. 20267 | 12. VIEW OF: Hearth/mantle/original wallpaper
2nd floor, NW bedroom
Neg. No. 20269 |
| 3. VIEW OF: Front porch
Neg. No. 20269 | 13. VIEW OF: Interior door in parlor
Neg. No. 20269 |
| 4. VIEW OF: House, west (side) elevation
Neg. No. 20267 | 14. VIEW OF: 2 nd floor hall cornice
Neg. No. 20269 |
| 5. VIEW OF: House, north (rear) elevation
Neg. No. 20267 | 15. VIEW OF: Faux-marbelized baseboard,
2 nd floor
Neg. No. 20269 |
| 6. VIEW OF: House SE corner,
ashlar foundation
Neg. No. 20267 | 16. VIEW OF: Dumbwaiter shaft, 1 st floor
Neg. No. 20268 |
| 7. VIEW OF: First floor central hall
Facing rear of house
Neg. No. 20268 | 17. VIEW OF: Smokehouse, facing north
Neg. No. 20267 |
| 8. VIEW OF: First floor central hall
Ornamental plaster cornice detail
Neg. No. 20268 | 18. VIEW OF: Hay barn, facing north
Neg. No. 20267 |
| 9. VIEW OF: Pocket doors, from front parlor
Neg. No. 20268 | 19. VIEW OF: Chicken coop, facing northwest
Neg. No. 20267 |
| 10. VIEW OF: Plaster ceiling medallion in parlor
Neg. No. 20268 | 20. VIEW OF: Context, facing north
House in background,
Cecil House ruins to the right
Neg. No. 20267 |

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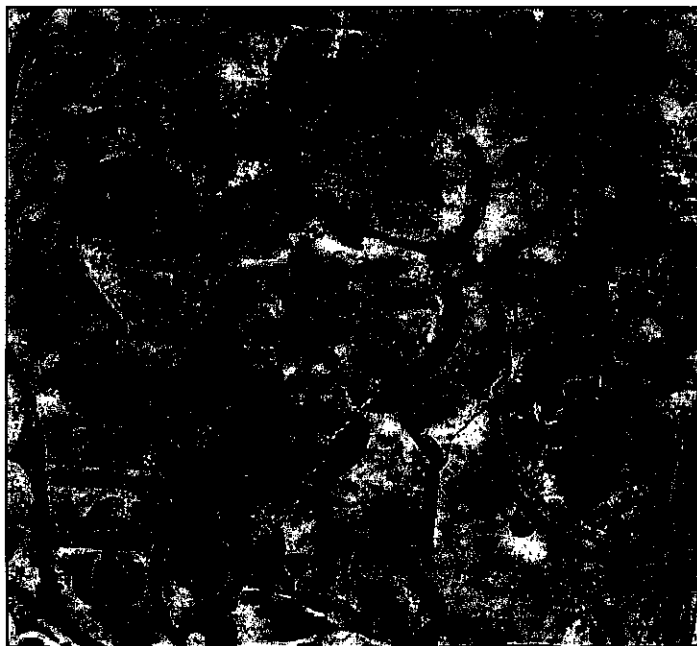
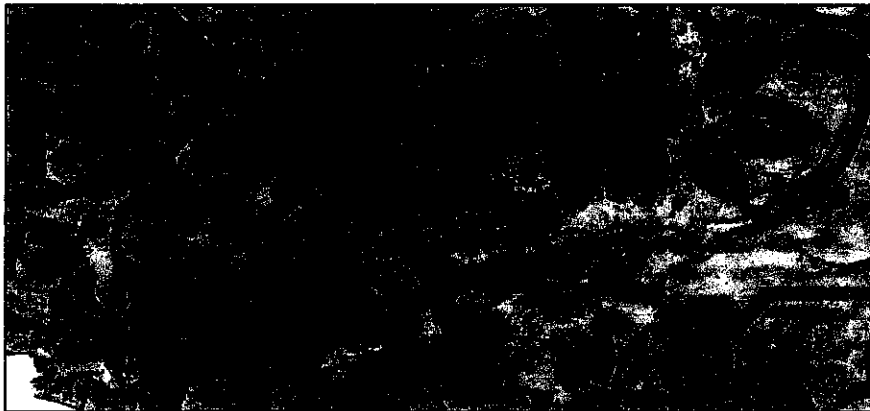
Dublin and the Darsts. Newbern, Va: Wilderness Road Regional Museum, 1992.

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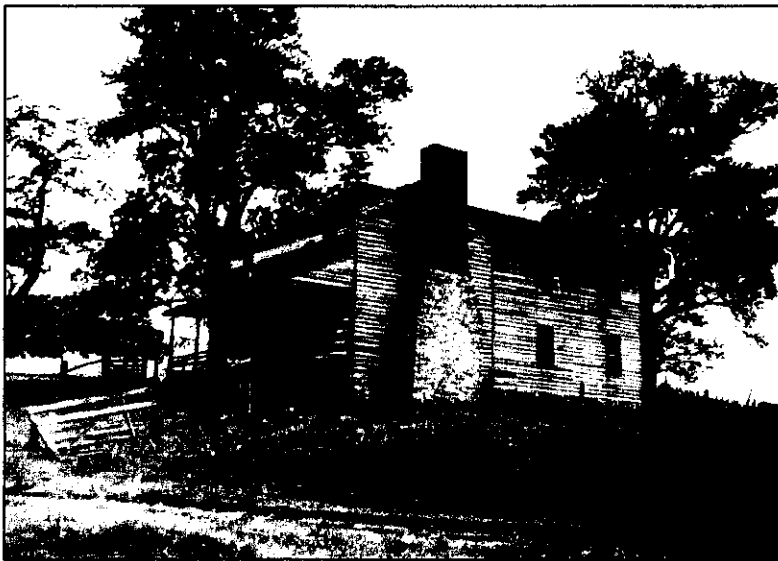
Wallpaper Fragments from Spring Dale NW bedroom.

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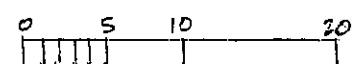
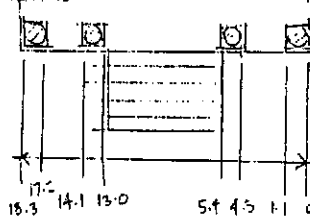
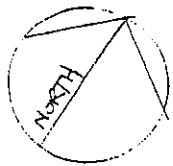
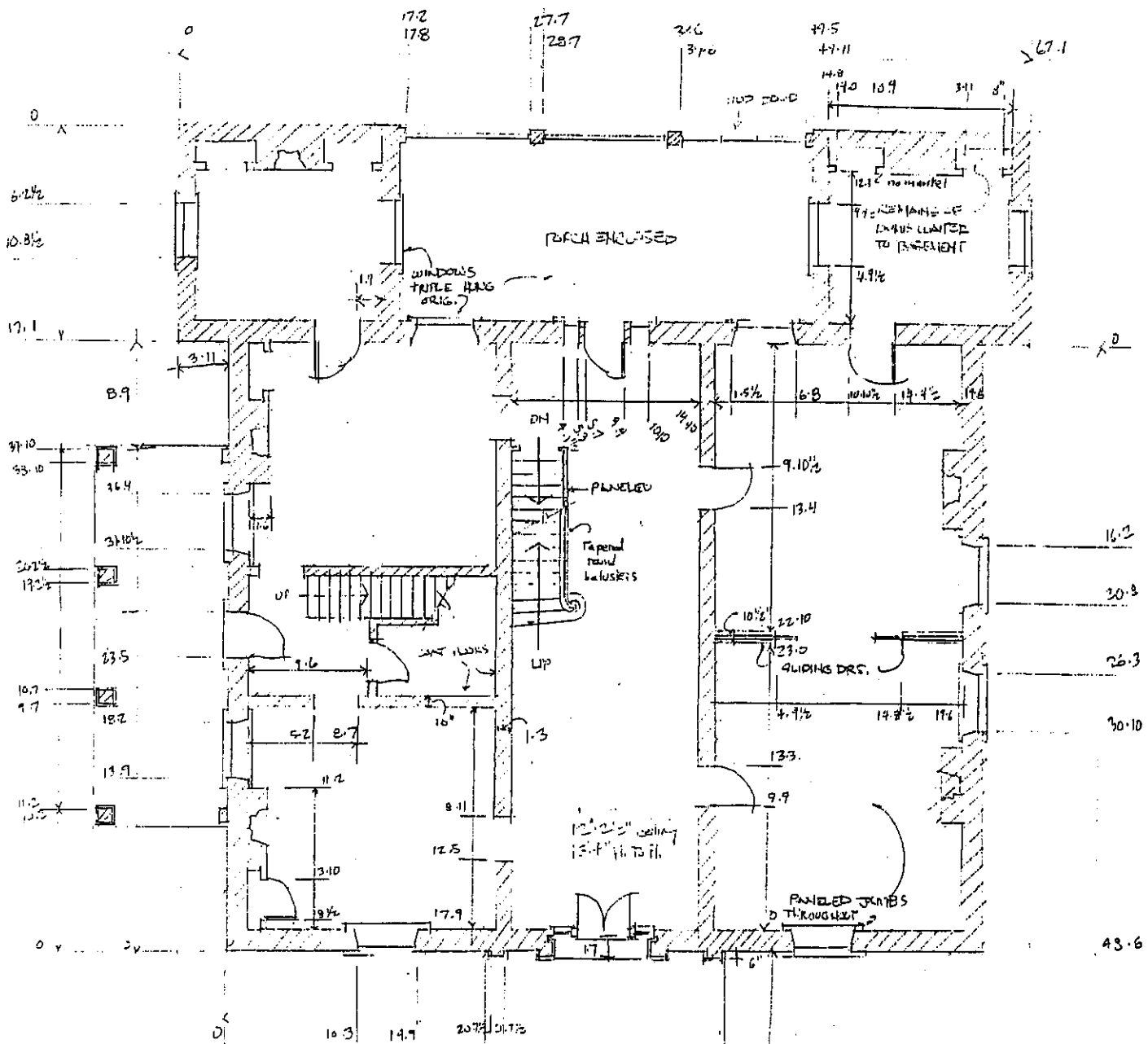
Samuel Cecil Cabin at Spring Dale

Photo: F. B. Kegley. *Early Adventures on the Western Waters, Vol. II: 260.*



David S. McGavock House "Spring Dale"

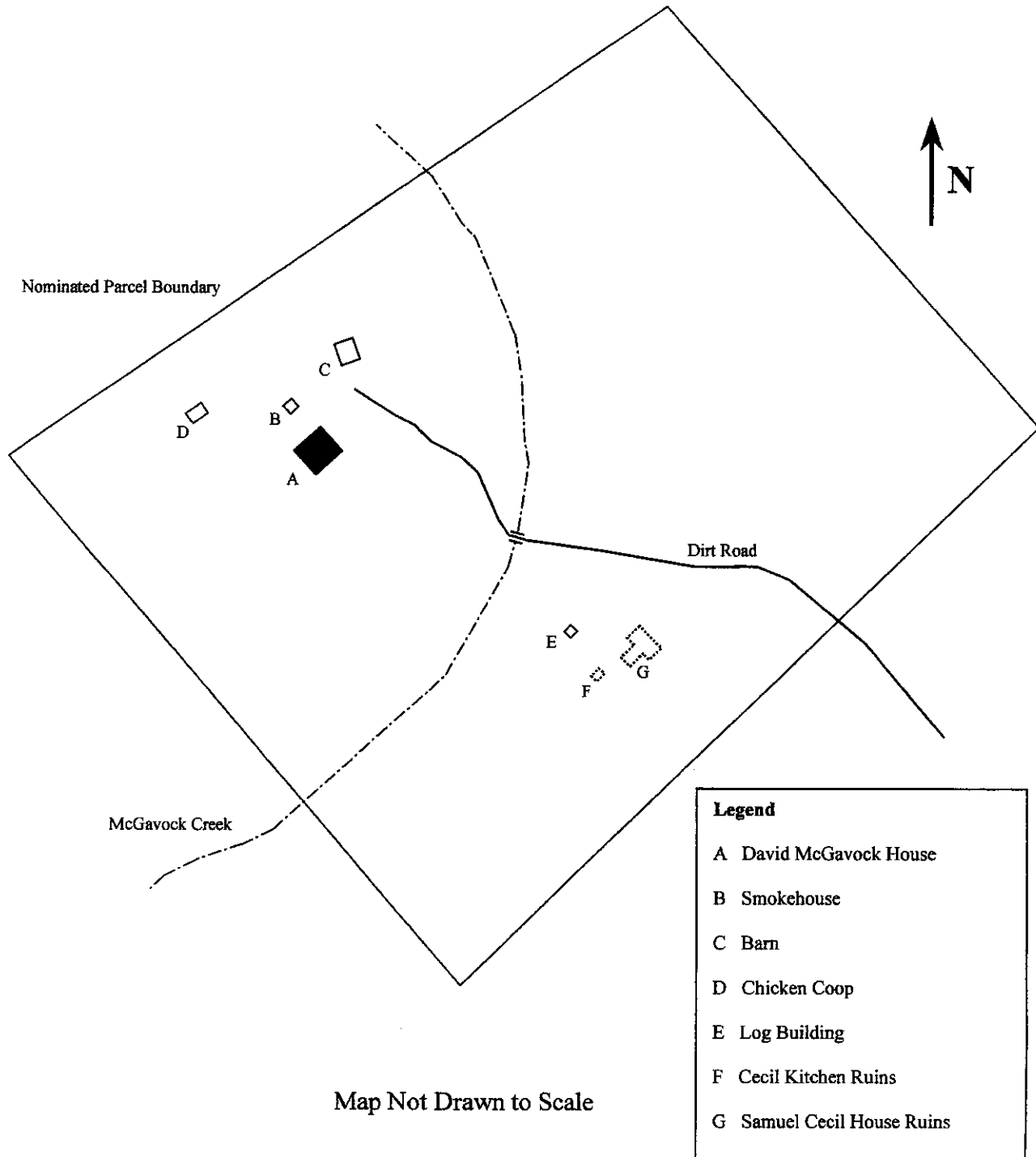
Photo: F. B. Kegley. *Early Adventures on the Western Waters, Vol. II: 261.*



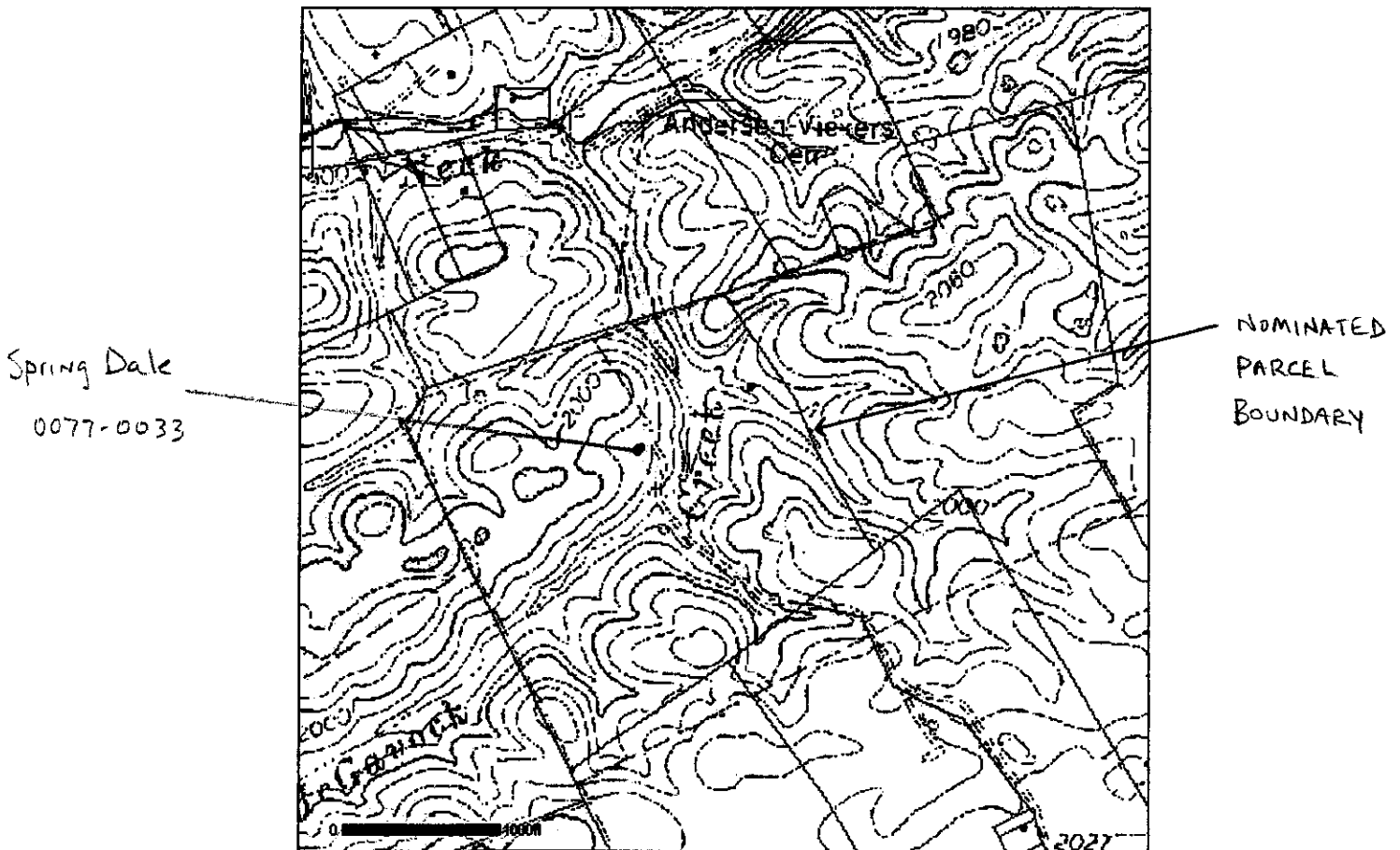
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
 G. L. MASON & D. PIZZONI
 AUGUST 1905
 77-33

Spring Dale, Pulaski County, Virginia

VDHR File No. 0077-0033



Pulaski Co, VA



Staffordsville Quad

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